

CONFIDENTIAL PTO7287

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ACTION AF-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 ACO-00 CIAE-00 USNW-00 DODE-00 DS-00  
VC-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 VCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 SS-00  
DSCC-00 DRL-02 NFAT-00 SAS-00 /002W  
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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8061  
INFO NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY  
RWANDA COLLECTIVE  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 000450

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/23/11  
TAGS: PREL PGOV ZI CG  
SUBJECT: ZIMBABWE TRIES TO MAINTAIN STATUS QUO IN DRC AS  
IT GROWS SUSPICIOUS OF ITS ALLIES

REFTEL: HARARE 00349

CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE D'AFFAIRES EARL M. IRVING FOR  
REASONS: 1.5 (B) AND (D).

¶1. (C) ON JANUARY 23, CHARGE SPOKE WITH THE PERMANENT  
SECRETARY IN ZIMBABWE'S MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,

SIPDIS  
WILLARD CHIWEWE, ABOUT THE DRC. CHIWEWE REITERATED  
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POINTS THAT SPEAKER MNANGAGWA HAD MADE TO US LAST WEEK  
(REFTEL): 1) ZIMBABWE WILL NOT CHANGE ITS APPROACH TO  
THE DRC GOVERNMENT, 2) IT WANTS CONGOLESE "SOCIETY" TO  
REMAIN "INTEGRAL" TO THE EQUATION, AND 3) IT DOES NOT  
WANT ANY OF THE DRC PLAYERS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF  
KABILA'S ASSASSINATION WITH NEW MILITARY ADVENTURES.  
ZIMBABWE WILL BE STRESSING THESE POINTS IN ALL ITS  
MEETINGS WITH THE OTHER PLAYERS IN THE COMING WEEKS,  
CHIWEWE STATED. THE PERMSEC, WHO JUST RETURNED FROM SIX  
WEEKS OF LEAVE ON JANUARY 22, WANTS TO WAIT UNTIL NEXT  
WEEK TO MEET WITH US IN ORDER TO GET FULLY UP TO SPEED  
ON DRC EVENTS.

¶2. (C) POLOFF SPOKE WITH THE MFA'S ACTING  
UNDERSECRETARY FOR AFRICA, MR. TAKAVARASHA, ON JANUARY  
¶23. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE PROPOSED LUSAKA SIGNATORIES  
MEETING, TAKAVARASHA DEMURRED, SAYING THAT THE ALLIED  
HEADS OF STATE WOULD LIKELY BE MEETING ON THE MARGINS OF  
OR SHORTLY AFTER KABILA'S FUNERAL. THE ACTING  
UNDERSECRETARY SAID THAT ZIMBABWE NO LONGER FEELS  
COMFORTABLE MEETING WITH ANY OF THE DRC PLAYERS,  
INCLUDING ITS ALLIES, WITHOUT KNOWING WHO WAS BEHIND THE  
ASSASSINATION OF KABILA. TAKAVARASHA SUGGESTED THAT A  
MEANINGFUL CONTINUATION OF THE LUSAKA DIALOGUE COULD NOT  
TAKE PLACE UNTIL THE INVESTIGATION INTO KABILA'S MURDER  
IS COMPLETED. WHEN QUERIED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A  
MAPUTO III SUMMIT, THE UNDERSECRETARY SAID HE WAS  
UNAWARE OF ANY PLANS FOR SUCH A MEETING, AND, IN ANY  
CASE, DISMISSED THE SOUTH AFRICANS AS "OUTSIDERS" TO THE  
DRC CONFLICT.

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¶3. (C) COMMENT: ZIMBABWE'S UNEASINESS ABOUT THE  
SITUATION IN THE DRC IS BEGINNING TO SHOW. THE GOZ  
LEADERSHIP'S PARANOID OPTICS MAY BE FOCUSING ON ITS  
ALLIES, PARTICULARLY ANGOLA, AS SPECULATION AND RUMOR  
ABOUND ABOUT WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR KABILA'S DEATH.  
TAKAVARASHA'S COMMENTS ARE WORRISOME, AS HE SEEMED MORE  
CONCERNED ABOUT FINGERING KABILA'S KILLER THAN USING THE  
OPPORTUNITY OF A CHANGE OF DRC LEADERSHIP TO ADVANCE THE  
LUSAKA PEACE PROCESS. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO OBTAIN A  
MORE DEFINITIVE READOUT OF ZIMBABWE'S THINKING AFTER THE  
KEY PLAYERS RETURN FROM KABILA'S FUNERAL THIS WEEK. END  
COMMENT.

IRVING

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